Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Don't forget to add clwaldron@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

FEATURE FOCUS

Rev. June Boutwell Elected New Designated Conference Minister

By unanimous vote, Rev. June Boutwell was elected Designated Conference Minister for a period of three years by church representatives from across the Southeast Conference at a special called meeting on Saturday, February 1st at Victory for the World at Stone Mountain, Georgia. The day included a time for Rev. June to introduce herself, for folks to ask questions, and for a celebratory worship following the vote.

Playing on the iPhone marketing and her love for tea, Rev. June proclaimed, "There's a cup for that!" She led members of the Conference through her journey of ministry with cups and mugs she had collected along the way, demonstrating her breadth of different locations around the country, her passion for youth and camp ministry, her call to be a connector for people, and her dedication to the United Church of Christ. She closed with lifting up a communion chalice and talking about the common cup that we are called to share in the church and in the Conference.

Rev. June answered a wide variety of questions discussing geographic issues we face as a Conference, the role of Associations in the Conference, strategies for new church development, and interests and hobbies she has outside of the ministry. Throughout these answers, Rev. June stressed that her style of entering a new ministry is to begin with deep listening and then to begin building bridges between people, rather than starting with her own agenda. Her answers also highlighted her experience with each of these areas, and a willingness to bring this experience to bear on the ministry of the Conference.

Taking call and vocation seriously, Rev. June proclaimed that we all have a call from God, as well as a vocation - meaningful work that we want to be engaged in. She hopes to help churches and individuals find this meaningful work through connection with one another and the Conference.

Rev. June also highlighted a broad range of personal interests from her deep personal contemplative and meditative practice to her fun-loving side that makes her a baseball and NASCAR fan and video gamer on one end and an omnivorous reader, and enjoying the theater, opera, and fine dining on the other.

Rev. June will begin serving the Conference at the end of February. In the meantime, you can send her your congratulations, thoughts for the Conference, and other communications through her new email address: jboutwell@secucc.org. She will answer her email when she hits the ground running in the coming weeks. Please join us in welcoming her to the Southeast!

For more pictures from the meeting, click here to read this article on our website

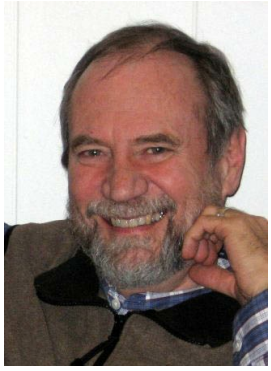
Click here for video from the meeting including Rev. June's homily

CONFERENCE NEWS

Ecclesiastical Council for Dorinda Broadnax

On Saturday, January 25, Dorinda Broadnax (currently licensed pastor at Community Congregational UCC in Montgomery) was proclaimed ordainable pending a call in an Ecclesiastical Council held at the SECUCC office. With this action Dorinda proves to be a pioneer for our Conference: the first Member in Discernment to reach this status through the alternate path to ordination. Dorinda is a graduate of the Conference TAP program and has served the Wider UCC in various ways over the years. Join us in congratulating her on this important achievement!

ICM Reflections



Preparing the Table

This will be my last "shot" at sharing some of my experiences gathered while traveling in your midst and representing you at various functions. I begin by joining you in a profound sense of celebration for the selection of the Rev. June Boutwell to begin ministry here in SECUCC effective February 24, 2014. I have known June for a long time, and from the very beginning I was pleased at the news that she was a candidate. Now that the delegates at the Conference Special meeting have affirmed that choice, I will turn my attention to wrapping up those matters still needing my attention and to "preparing the table" to enable June to get a running start - just the kind of start she will need to keep up with all that lies ahead for this coming spring! I will finish my service among you on February 23, participating in the ordination service of Kim Sorrells, to be held at Central Congregational UCC in Atlanta. Karen and I will depart soon after that and return to Montana...cherishing

Ordination of Ryan Sirmons

Ryan Sirmons was ordained and installed at UCC Annapolis, MD on January 11th. UCC Annapolis on Jan. 11th. The Conference was represented by George Drumbor, lay leader from Circular in Charleston, and Rev. Ellen Sims, pastor of Open Table in Mobile, AL, who officiated and preached at the ordination. We wish Ryan well in his new ministry!

STILLSPEAKING YOUTH

Youth Gather at last month's Winter Youth Retreat

by Lacey Brown
January 17-20th was the annual Winter Youth Retreat at the UCC's Conference Center in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Over 100 students attended from both the South East Conference and the Southern Conference. Both middle and high school students and their leaders gathered for three packed days of fun activities, worship, skiing, and fellowship. The theme of the weekend was "commitment," which prompted us to ask how we commit ourselves to seeing the face of Christ in one another. Using Matthew 25:31-46, students reflected on the barriers that keep them from seeing

numerous fond memories of our time here in the south and full of gratitude for the hospitality you have shown us!

But first, my final report on a visit to one of our congregations, Pilgrimage UCC in Marietta, where I uncovered several notable facts:
* I have visited hundreds of UCC congregations over the past twenty years, and Pilgrimage "wins the prize" for effective use of UCC signs and banners - used in a manner that invites people to come in and experience a place where all are welcome and where "God Is Still Speaking!"
* Kimberleigh Buchanan, Senior Pastor, and her husband, Allen Mullinax, Director of Music have plans for an exciting trip to Ireland this summer (late August, early September). This trip will be part of Kim's planned summer sabbatical, and this portion of that sabbatical speaks to Kim's musical tastes (and presumably Allen's): the leader of this Irish trip is Kate Campbell, a Nashville-based folk singer. (For details on the trip check it out at: http://www.katecampbell.com/ireland/)

And finally I have two items of considerable importance to share with you: one has to do with a needed development of local church ministries for returning veterans and the other is a warning that comes to all of our local churches from The Office of General Counsel for the UCC regarding copyright violations and recent lawsuits that have been emerging.

(Click here to read more!)

-- Shalom, Randy

Generosity Corner

Thank you to all Church's in the Southeast Conference who supported the Wider Mission in 2013.

2013 Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support Conference Total = $288,840.00.
"Well done, good and faithful servants..."
-Matthew 25:21

Christ in each other. They considered the question: What are the things we all experience that create walls and prevent loving relationships with one another? During the final worship service, each student painted a 2x4 wooden board with words that illustrated those things that prevent them from seeing God in others.

(click here to read more)

Upper Room Fellowship St. Valentine's Potluck at Holy Trinity

Come on February 15th for a St. Valentine's potluck supper gathering of the Nashville area United Church of Christ & UCC friends to grow in love and peace, prayer and meditation, and in fellowship with one another. Evening's Theme: "You Are Loved" featuring the Josh Groban's song of same title.

In Concert: JASON & deMARCO, vocal duo, Celebrating love, marriage equality & non-traditional families in the spirit of St. Valentine who will make a guest appearance too for historical reenactment as a martyr of the Church for love.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Minister Kimberly Peeler-Ringer of Howard Congregational Church.

photocredit: Emmanuel Huybrechts

Young Adults - Looking for a way to Make a Difference?

Young adults, ages 21-35 - Are you looking for a way to make a positive difference in the church and world? Just YASC! Excitement is building about the UCC Young

Capital Campaign Update

Holy Trinity Community Church of Nashville, Tenn.
Cindy Andrews-Looper, Pastor
Pledge of $25,000.00

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ of Marietta, GA
Kimberleigh Buchanan, Pastor
Pledge of $12,000.00

Transforming Churches - Transforming Lives
Campaign Total = $658,700

National Scholarships

The 2014-15 scholarship process in underway in our National UCC, and there a large number of scholarship possibilities:

- For "members in discernment"
- For those preparing to teach in a seminary setting
- For one-time emergency need (available year-round to full time MDIV students)
- For students preparing for Military Chaplaincy
- For students who are LGBT
- For Racial and Ethnic theological students
- For Latina and Latino UCC Seminarians (attending a UCC seminary)
- For gifted persons with disabilities

Adult Service Communities - one near you or in another part of the country. February is the month for Applications. Inquire today with UCC Young Adult Service Communities.

First Parish Church United of Westford, MA (near Boston), is a joint UCC-Unitarian church that loves to make everyone feel welcome and engaged. Old First Reformed UCC in Center City, Philadelphia lives every day as a wellspring of hope for diverse people in their neighborhood, city, region and throughout the world. St. Peter UCC in Granite City, IL (minutes from downtown St. Louis), is regenerating their church by working to regenerate their community. On the west coast, Pilgrim UCC in Carlsbad, CA (north San Diego county), is a church committed to inclusion, progressive Christian theology and social justice. And the Justice Leadership Program in Seattle, WA gives interns the opportunity to link passion for social justice with spiritual and personal growth. Great community internships are lined up for the right candidates. YASC interns serve both in a community agency and part-time in congregational service at the church. Interns live in intentional community with one another and figure out how to live as 'change-makers' in the world. AmeriCorps education grants are available for interns placed in some community agency positions.

-Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss

Global Sharing of Resources Team Leader (OGHS) and UCC Volunteer Ministries Executive

If you qualify for one of the above and are interested in further details, contact the SEC office ASAP. The deadline for most of these is in March.

United Church Funds' Annual Investor Conference

By Barbara Everett
United Church Funds hosted its annual investor conference in Charleston, So. Carolina Jan. 17-18. Meeting in the historic district, interested attendees were able to walk a short distance to Circular Congregational Church for a tour of this historic church established in 1681. The conference attracted many first time attendees and by all accounts they were enthusiastic about what they learned and eager to take back and share with their congregations and other church related organizations.

There were several workshops on endowments including developing appropriate policies, fundraising and a case study on building an endowment. Other workshops included investment fundamentals and impact investing. A very substantive and informative keynote on Giving Trends in the Faith Community was provided by Naomi Harding, Principal Educational Consultant for Blackbaud.

A stimulating panel discussion concerning UCF's response to the General Synod resolution on fossil fuels highlighted both the urgency and complexity of the issue. United Church Funds is becoming a recognized leader for its work on this issue.
Whether or not your church currently has money invested at United Church Funds, now would be a good time to begin planning to attend next year's conference. Watch for information about the date and location for next year's conference.

http://unitedchurchfunds.org/

Barbara Everett is a member of Pleasant Hill Community Church UCC and Board Member United Church Funds.

Forward this issue

Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

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A. **SEC Offices** / B. **PATHWAYS** / C. **Capital Campaign**